

The Old Paths

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"Two Lions"

Jarrod Jacobs

There are two lions that figure very prominently in the Bible. In fact, not only do we read about these lions in the Bible, but we are also affected by these two lions each day. When studying the Bible, we see that these two lions are total opposites, continually fighting against one another. Specifically, they are fighting over us. As a result of their conflict, we are also affected.

For Example:

- ♦ One lion brings fear to us, but the other lion brings comfort (Jn. 14:16).
 - ♦ One lion fights against us (adversary, I Pet. 5:8), while the other lion fights for us (advocate, I Jn. 2:1).
 - ♦ One lion hates us, and one lion loves us.
 - ♦ One lion wants us to die in our sins, while the other lion died for the remission of our sins (Matt. 26:28).
 - ♦ One lion roars at us (I Pet. 5:8), while the other lion acts like a lamb toward us (Jn. 1:29).
 - ♦ One lion wants to devour us (I Pet. 5:8), but the other lion wants to preserve us.
 - ♦ One lion lies to us and deceives us (Gen. 3:15; Jn. 8:44), but the other lion speaks the truth to us (Jn. 14:6).
- ♦ One lion tempts us with evil (I Thess. 3:5; I Jn. 2:15-16), but the other lion does not tempt us with evil (Jas. 1:13).
 - ♦ One lion is our enemy (I Pet. 5:8; Matt. 13:39), but the other lion is our friend (I Jn. 2:1).
- It should be obvious to our dear readers that the two lions the Bible describes are Christ and Satan. When we read I Peter 5:8, we read that, "*Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking someone to devour.*" This is the lion that is completely opposed to us and hates us. In contrast, Jesus is described as, the "*Lion of the tribe of Judah*" (Rev. 5:5). This is the lion who loves us and wants us to be saved!
- Look into the Bible and find more contrasts between these two lions. When we contrast Christ and Satan in this way, may it open our eyes to the One who truly deserves our praise, obedience, and love. Jesus, the lion of the tribe of Judah stands ready to receive us when we render obedience to His will through faith, repentance, and baptism (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38). He wants us to live faithfully for Him all the days of our lives (Rev. 2:10). Why not do that? What is stopping you from submitting your will to Christ's? Decide today to leave the kingdom of the devouring lion (Satan) and live in the kingdom of the lion of Judah (Christ)!!

It is not *inventive* genius we need in the Church, nor *explorers* to *invent* something new, or to *make discoveries*; but we need humble and honest men, who know and love truth, and will press it on the world. We know humble men, of but limited talent and information, who are building up churches, reforming men and women, and bringing them to God. We know also men of considerable learning and talent, who do not turn a bare dozen to the Lord in a year, and who build up no churches nor anything else, but who are starting subtleties, speculations and questions to no profit, but only tend to subvert the hearer. Why can men not be content with the plain truth, the precious truth that makes men wise to salvation, through faith in Christ? It is easily learned, easily preached and readily believed and obeyed to the salvation of the soul. It is for the people, the whole people, and adapted to them. The kind of greatness we need, is that which manifests itself in preaching great truth in plain and easy terms, and bringing it to the comprehension of the people. The command is, and will be till the Lord comes, "*Preach the word.*"

[Article written by Benjamin Franklin, A Gospel Preacher From The 1800's, In His Book Entitled: Book Of Gems, p. 242]

"Everyone does it" does not justify your behavior. This excuse simply means you're as wrong as everyone else!

12 Rules For Raising Delinquent Children

Author Unknown To Me

1. Begin in infancy to give the child everything he wants. In this way, he will grow up to believe the world owes him a living.

2. When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. This will make him think he's cute. It will make him anxious to pick up "cuter" phrases that will blow the top of your head off later.

3. Never give him any spiritual training. Wait until he is 21 and then let him decide for himself.

4. Avoid the use of the word "wrong." It may develop a guilt complex. This will condition him to believe later, when he is arrested for stealing a car, that society is against him and he is being persecuted.

5. Pick up everything he leaves lying around — books, shoes, and clothing. Do everything for him so he will be experienced in throwing all responsibility to others.

6. Let him read any printed material he can get his hands on. Be careful that the silverware and drinking glasses are sterilized, but let his mind feast on garbage.

7. Quarrel frequently in the presence of your children. In this way, they will not be too shocked when the home is broken up later.

8. Give the child all the spending money he wants. Never let him earn his own. Why should he have things as tough as you had them?

9. Satisfy his every craving of

food, drink, and of comfort. See every sensual desire is gratified; denial may lead to harmful frustration.

10. Take his part against neighbors, teachers, and policemen. They are all prejudiced against your child.

11. When he gets into real trouble, apologize for yourself by saying, "I never could do anything with him."

12. Prepare yourself for a life of grief. You will be apt to have it!

Some Thoughts Worth Thinking:

"Speaking the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15) does not mean speaking it in such a vague way that no one will object to it. The apostles and Jesus always spoke the truth in love with all boldness. The apostles even prayed to speak with boldness.

- Matt Foster, Burkesville, KY

The pleasure of sin never exceeds the pain of its consequence.

- Gordon Skinner, Columbus, IN

Anything Strange About The Following Scene?

Jarrod Jacobs

Picture a lovely young girl and a young man. Both are good-looking people, healthy and clean-cut. Both are naked, seeing that he has nothing to cover himself except a small pair of shorts. She has nothing to cover herself except a string bikini (Gen. 3:7, 10). These two go to the local swimming pool with their peers who are similarly undressed. While talking with their friends, these two pause to open a bag they brought and take out their Bibles to read. Their friends look at them in confusion and walk away as the two suggest that they all take turns reading the Bible together. The two shrug their shoulders as the boy says, "I guess not everyone is interested in being Christians like we are."

Friends, what would you think of two people inadequately clothed sitting among others similarly undressed? Would you call such folks Christians? Would the presence of a Bible make them look like Christians, or like hypocrites? You know the answer to this. As the temperatures warm up, let us not forget who we are when among peers or by ourselves (Matt. 5:16; I Pet. 3:3-5).

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